



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100

Sacramento, CA. 95814

March 24, 2005

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

Document #: S46853

Mr. Will Kempton, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Office, Room 3500
For Ross A. Chittenden, Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Kempton:

SUBJECT: AMBAG 2004/05-2006/07 FSTIP AMENDMENT NO. 4

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has completed the review of Amendment Number 4 to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) portion of the 2004/05-2006/07 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated March 7, 2005. As detailed in the enclosure to your letter, this amendment adds eleven projects, modifies eight projects, and deletes one project proposed in the counties of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz. The AMBAG Board of Directors endorsed this amendment to the FY 2004/05-2006/07 Monterey Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) on February 9, 2005, by approving Resolution No. 2005-2. With the exception of the proposed funding modifications to the MTIP/FSTIP listings for the Schulte Road Bridge project at the Carmel River in Monterey County, and the proposed funding modifications to the Harkins Slough Road Bridge project at Struve Slough in Santa Cruz County, we are approving this amendment to the 2004/05-2006/07 FSTIP for the AMBAG region pursuant to the Federal statewide and metropolitan transportation planning regulations codified in 23 CFR Part 450, and in accord with the July 15, 2004, *Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX*. We have determined that the FSTIP modifications proposed in the AMBAG MTIP Amendment Number 4 for the Schulte Road Bridge project at the Carmel River and the Harkins Road Bridge at Struve Slough are not exempt from the requirements that a regional air quality conformity analysis and determination be made prior to their inclusion in the FSTIP.

We find that the AMBAG 2004/05-2006/07 MTIP, including Amendment No. 4, was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process in accord with the metropolitan transportation planning provisions of 23 USC §134 and 49 USC Chapter 53. We have determined that the adopted modifications to the AMBAG MTIP proposed for inclusion in California's FSTIP by this amendment, with the exception of the Harkins Slough Road Bridge project at Struve Slough and the Schulte Road Bridge project at the Carmel River,



are exempt from the regional emissions analysis and conformity determination requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Transportation Conformity Rule as amended. Our transportation planning and air quality conformity findings have been coordinated with the regional offices of the U.S. EPA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). This FSTIP Amendment approval is provided with the understanding that FTA funding approval on the individual projects contained in the FSTIP are subject to grantees meeting all necessary FTA administrative requirements.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning our approval for the inclusion of this AMBAG MTIP amendment into California's FSTIP, please contact Wade Hobbs of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5027, or by email at wade.hobbs@fhwa.dot.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ K. Sue Kiser

/s/ Leslie T. Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

cc: (e-mail)
Todd Muck, AMBAG
Randy Steen, Caltrans - Federal Resources
Terry Abbott, Caltrans - Local Programs
Abhijit Bagde, Caltrans - Transportation Programming
Karina O'Connor, EPA Region IX
Lorraine Lerman, FTA Region IX

cc: (other)
AMBAG FSTIP Binder

Whobbs/jf